OIPE CO.

Docket No.: 50212-207

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Toshiki TARU, et al.

Serial No.: 09/830,939

Group Art Unit: 3743

Filed: May 03, 2001

Examiner: J. Derrington

For:

OPTICAL FIBER DRAWING METHOD AND OPTICAL FIBER DRAWING

FURNACE

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

The following Amendment and Remarks are submitted in further response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2002 supplementing the Amendment submitted January 7, 2003.:

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 7 as follows.

7. (Three Times Amended) An optical fiber drawing furnace comprising a furnace core tube through which a fiber [perform] <u>preform</u> penetrates vertically, a heater disposed around said furnace core tube, and a [perform] <u>preform</u> container connected to an upper portion of said furnace core tube so as to be integral with said furnace core tube to form a semi-closed space opening in part at a lower end, for housing said fiber [perform] <u>preform</u> inside,